



State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

M/045/031

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February 26, 2003

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Tom Munson, Senior Reclamation Specialist 

RE: Office Meeting Notes, Aragonite (M/045/031) and Torrey Sandstone (S/055/016) Mines, Tooele County & Wayne County, Utah

Date of meeting: February 25, 2003
Time of meeting: 10:15 - 11:00 a.m.
Place: DOGM Office - Hard Rock Room
Participants: Lon Thomas and Beverly Thomas, American Stone/Star Stone Quarries, Inc.; Wayne Hedberg and Tom Munson, DOGM

Aragonite Mine – M/045/031

Mr. Hedberg opened the meeting with a discussion of what the Division felt were important safety issues regarding the Aragonite Mine. This discussion centered around the existing hazards noted at the quarry. These hazards include: three underground mine openings (two very large subsidence-related glory holes and one vertical shaft) that need to be permanently closed or otherwise adequately secured, and the highwalls above the slot quarry. Mr. Thomas stated that he may have a potential buyer for this property from the eastern U.S., and did not want to permanently close the openings, thereby restricting further development, or contamination of the aragonite ore reserves. We expressed our position that these are very dangerous openings and accordingly must be secured in a reasonable manner as soon as possible. We agreed to send a couple of proposed dates to the Thomas's to meet on site (mid-March preferred) to discuss ideas and possible solutions to secure these openings and those areas that may remain to be reclaimed under the approved mine plan. We stated that we might bring our mine engineer and possibly an experienced member from our AMR program that has worked at closing similar hazardous openings. Mr. Munson also discussed the need to establish a clear delineation of the amount of permitted disturbed area for this mine. The current mine permitting documents leave some confusion. Mr. Thomas stated he could show us the markers he had put in place several years ago to identify a five-acre operational area.

Torrey Mine - S/055/016

The second part of the meeting focused on the Torrey Sandstone mine site and the seven acres of disturbance that was GPS'ed by Mr. Munson during his last onsite inspection. Mr. Thomas stated that a couple portions of this site were reclaimed two or three years ago. Mr. Munson stated suitable vegetation was not growing on these areas. He noted only weedy species were present during his inspection. We discussed the contemporaneous reclamation provision of the small mining rules and agreed

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to meet onsite with Mr. Thomas to mutually verify the location and extent of these reclaimed areas in order to determine if we can exclude them from the seven acre estimate. It is possible that this could reduce the amount of disturbed acreage to five or less acres, thereby allowing Mr. Thomas to retain his small mining status for this site.

Mr. Munson informed them that the operator is obligated to properly revegetate the reclaimed areas regardless. The discussion of the current drought conditions came up and Beverly Thomas stated no one would want to waste seed and money to revegetate in a drought. Mr. Thomas stated he was considering permitting the mine as a LMO, but that a nearby motel may object or protest any mine expansion. Mr. Hedberg stated that the Division felt that to permit as a large mine would probably be a better alternative in the long run. It would help eliminate the ongoing concern over maintaining compliance with the five-acre SMO disturbance threshold and Mr. Thomas agreed. A March 17th inspection date was tentatively established that will be confirmed mutually after schedules are checked.

jb

cc: Lon Thomas, American Stone
Mary Ann Wright, OGM
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